



Fairfax County Commission for Women

The commission's charge is to **promote the full equality** of **women** and **girls** in the county.



Commission for Women Meeting Minutes

Date: October 6, 2014	Time: 7:26 – 9:45 pm	Location: Government Center, Room 232
Meeting Commenced	Chair Bhatnagar called the meeting to order at 7:26 pm.	
Commissioners Present	Cynthia Bhatnagar, Chair, Mason; Emily McCoy, Lee; Mattie Palmore, Minority At-Large; Maria Vorel, Mount Vernon; Barbara Lippa, Sully; Julia T. Boone, Hunter Mill; Miriam Swydan Erickson, Providence	
Commissioners Absent	Sondra Seba Hemenway, Vice Chair, At-Large; Binh Nguyen, Dranesville; Jeanie F. Jew, Springfield	
Vacant Seats	Student Representative and Braddock District	
Recorder	Michelle Mueller	
Staff Present	Michelle Mueller	
1. Introduction of Guests		
	Chair Bhatnagar asked the guests to introduce themselves: Caroline Rankin, intern from OFWDSVS; Iman Al-Shingieti, Executive Director of Ikram; and Kristen Talman, a student at Centreville High School.	
2. Approval of September Minutes		
Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar asked the Commissioners to review the September minutes.	
Conclusions	Ms. Vorel stated that she would like to have her comments about the NACW conference in the September minutes replaced with a report of takeaways from the conference. Ms. Mueller said that she was not sure how to integrate the takeaways into the September minutes. Ms. Vorel then asked that the document be included in the October	

	<p>minutes.</p> <p>Ms. Vorel moved to approve the September minutes, and Ms. McCoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</p>
3. Approval of September Financial Reports	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Mueller reported that Ms. Fernández had not yet approved the September financial reports, so they would be presented at the November meeting.</p>
4. Earlier Meeting Start Time	
Discussion	<p>Chair Bhatnagar suggested that longer meetings would be preferable because Commission meetings were frequently being extended. She suggested that the meetings start earlier, but Commissioners pointed out that several people were consistently unable to arrive by the start time.</p> <p>Ms. Palmore moved to begin Commission meetings at 7:00 pm instead of 7:15. Ms. Erickson seconded the motion. They then amended the motion to start at 7:15 and end meetings no later than 10:00 pm. The motion was approved unanimously.</p>
5. Friends of the Commission Update	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported that she was continuing to attend meetings of the Friends of the Commission. Eight people had so far volunteered for the Board, and they would be meeting again on October 7. Ms. Bhatnagar reported that she is creating a website for the Friends, which would include a fundraising link and the option to join an email group. Ms. Mueller recommended that Ms. Bhatnagar use Vertical Reponse, which provides free email service to nonprofits. Ms. Vorel suggested that the Friends become a member of Volunteer Fairfax, so they could list volunteer positions, events and donation needs.</p> <p>Ms. Vorel moved that the Friends create a database of contacts. Ms. McCoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Mueller recommended that the Friends make policies regarding who would be able to send out to the list and for what purposes, including fundraising and forwarding.</p>

6. Human Trafficking	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Boone reported that the Just Ask Foundation planning group was proceeding with bylaws, board recruitment and strategic planning. They are seeking a corporate partner such as a hotel chain to bring on board and to accept the Human Trafficking Awareness Month proclamation. Ms. Palmore stated that she would like a survivor to accept the proclamation.</p> <p>Ms. Boone reported that she was looking into the 2015 DC Film Festival. There could also be a smaller film event in January. Ms. Vorel stated that it could be easy to lose focus on our issue at a large film festival.</p> <p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported that the Just Ask workgroup had created a PSA, which was shown at the Human Trafficking Task Force meeting. She said that she had signed up for the upcoming train-the-trainer session from the Task Force.</p> <p>Ms. Mueller reported that she had paid for six registrations and an exhibit table at the Shared Hope Just conference November 7-8. Just Ask members had volunteered to staff the table, and visitor Iman Al-Shingieti volunteered as well. Ms. Hemenway, Ms. Palmore, Ms. Mueller, Ms. Bhatnagar and Ms. Boone reported that they would like to attend the conference.</p> <p>Ms. Boone stated that she would send out possible times for a Human Trafficking committee meeting.</p>
7. NACW Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Vorel reported that the NACW regional meeting is being planned for November 14. The next planning call will be on October 7. Ms. Vorel plans to contact the Virginia commissions to invite them to attend. Ms. Bhatnagar, Ms. Mueller and Ms. Palmore reported that they would like to attend.</p>
8. Biennial Report Update	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Mueller reported that the Biennial report layout was completed and that she would send it to the county printing office. \$500 was previously approved for printing expense, and Chair Bhatnagar asked to print as many copies as possible within that budget.</p>

9. Channel 16 Suffragist Video	
Discussion	Ms. McCoy distributed and explained her proposal for a new half-hour video on the suffragist movement and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. She reported that the purpose would be to educate the public and to provide groups with a presentation in lieu of a speaker. She stated that the 2013 video produced by Channel 16 was lacking information on the dynamics within the suffragist movement as well as the innovative tactics used by suffragists, many of which were adopted in later human rights struggles. Ms. Vorel asked that the new video be compatible with viewing on a Mac and social media.
Conclusions	Ms. Vorel moved to accept Ms. McCoy's proposal for the suffragist video. Ms. McCoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
10. Workplace Violence Policy	
Discussion	Ms. McCoy reported that she had presented a report on the workplace violence project at the DV Community Annual Meeting. Guest Caroline Rankin drafted the tip sheet for employers about what a workplace violence policy should include in terms of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. It will refer employers to other resources if they need to develop a policy. The planning group will meet again on October 21.
11. Student Representative Selection	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Mueller reported that 30 students had applied to be Student Representative. The committee will meet on October 8 to select students to interview, and Ms. Mueller will set up interviews to take place on October 13-14.</p> <p>Ms. Mueller reported that Ms. Hemenway would not be able to participate on the committee, and she asked for a volunteer to take her place, along with Ms. Vorel, Ms. Bhatnagar and Ms. Mueller. Ms. Lippa volunteered.</p>
12. Community Reports	
Discussion	Ms. Palmore reported that the Women's Group of Mt. Vernon would again hold its Grand Day during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, on October 25. On October 28, she will speak at Busboys and Poets.

	<p>Ms. Vorel reported that she has been hearing comments about maternity/paternity leave. Ms. Mueller will send her the policy for County employees.</p> <p>Ms. Erickson commented that she had been thinking about Boy Scout and Girl Scout badges or curricula to meet badge requirements.</p> <p>Ms. McCoy reported on the dedication of the banquet facility at Occoquan in honor of Jean Packard, the first woman to chair the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>Ms. Lipa reported that Zonta International had taken over sponsorship of the pantry at DVAC.</p> <p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported that she had participated in the Virginia NOW conference, and will meet with the leadership of Artemis House.</p> <p>Ms. Mueller distributed flyers for the open house at DVAC. Ms. Vorel recommended inviting Teresa Belcher, director of DVAC, to speak at the November Commission meeting.</p>
Additional Meeting Information	
Meeting Adjourned	The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.
Materials Distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Meeting Notice and Agenda for October 6, 2014 • Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2014 • NACW 2014 Conference Takeaways • NACW Regional Conference Call Notes • Suffragist Video Proposal • DVAC Open House Flyer • Supervisor John Cook Domestic Violence Event Flyer
Next Meeting	November 12, 2014 at 7:15 pm at the Fairfax County Government Center, conference room 8.